United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in unanimous resolution, decides to establish and immediately dispatch United Nations Mission in Haiti to train Haitian police and modernize armed forces; asks Secretary-General to set up trust fund to provide additional funding for Mission.

+ General Assembly President says it is unacceptable for Secretary-General to have to solicit financial dues from Member States; says investment in United Nations is investment in peace, security and development

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says Indonesia and Portugal must be more flexible on question of East Timor; stresses importance of improving human rights conditions in territory.

+ General Assembly General Committee recommends inclusion of 161 of 165 items proposed by Secretary-General for agenda of forty-eighth session; defers items on Malagasy Islands and East Timor in view of progress in ongoing negotiations.

+ Secretary-General meets with World Bank representatives to discuss next phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia; Special Representative Jonathan Howe says UNOSOM II will assist in formation of interim Somali government in coming months.

+ UNTAC mandate to end tomorrow with proclamation of Constitution in Phnom Penh, election of King, and transformation of constitutional assembly into National Assembly.

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The Security Council today decided to establish and immediately dispatch the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for a period of six months, subject to the proviso that it will be extended beyond 75 days only upon a review by the Council on whether substantial progress has been made towards

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implementing the Governors Island Agreement of 3 July and the political accords reached in New York. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 867 (1993).

UNMIH will consist of 567 United Nations Police Monitors (UNPMs) and a 700-strong military construction unit, including 60 military trainers. The UNPMs will train all levels of the Haitian police and monitor their operations. The military component in charge of modernizing the Haitian armed forces will provide non-combat training as determined by the Chief of the Mission and the Government of Haiti, while the military construction unit will carry out projects detailed in the Secretary-General's reports.

The Mission will come under the oversight of the Special Representative of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) so that it can benefit from information already obtained by the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH). The resolution stressed the importance of close coordination between the OAS and the United Nations in their work in Haiti.

The Council encouraged the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund or make other arrangements to help pay for those Mission activities not covered by normal peace-keeping financing, and to make voluntary contributions to the fund. It also asked the Secretary-General to seek contributions of personnel from Member States. The resolution called on the Haitian Government to ensure the safety of United Nations personnel and freedom of movement and communications for UNMIH, and urged the Government to quickly conclude a status-of-mission agreement.

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Resources must be made available to strengthen the United Nations in the area of peace-keeping and peace-building, as proposed in the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace", General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) told corresponents today. The Organization provided good value for money, and an investment in it was a long-term investment in global peace, collective security and development. It was "totally unacceptable", Mr. Insanally said, for the Secretary-General to have to keep soliciting the financial dues that were a legal obligation of all Member States.

Mr. Insanally said that "An Agenda for Peace" must be matched by an agenda for development, and that the stage had been set for a considered examination of the "development imperative" during the forty-eighth session. He also stressed the importance of the Secretary-General's proposals for reform and revitalization of the United Nations, which were essential, he said, to the achievement of peace, security and equitable development.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that Indonesia and Portugal must show greater flexibility in the interest of making progress on

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the question of East Timor. In a report on East Timor dated 20 September, the Secretary-General said he was "moderately encouraged" by the substance and tone of discussions with the Foreign Ministers of the two countries at Headquarters on 17 September. He noted that both sides had realized the need for confidence-building measures, although it had proved difficult to make progress on the core question owing to the wide difference in their positions.

The Secretary-General stressed that the improvement of human rights conditions in East Timor was a sine qua non for progress. He said he had been closely following developments relating to human rights and fundamental freedoms there in view of the continued concern of the international community. The Secretary-General had dispatched his Personal Envoy, Amos Wako, to East Timor and Indonesia in April, and Mr. Wako had reported to him on his findings and had made recommendations on how the human rights situation in the territory could be improved. Those recommendations had been conveyed to the Governments of Indonesia and Portugal.

According to the report, the Secretary-General will hold a new round of discussions with the Foreign Ministers in Geneva on 6 May 1994, following preparatory meetings in New York involving the Permanent Representatives of the two countries to the United Nations.

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The General Committee of the General Assembly yesterday recommended that the Assembly include 161 of 165 items proposed by the Secretary-General for the agenda of the forty-eighth session, which began on Tuesday. Items included cover the entire spectrum of United Nations activities, including political, disarmament, decolonization, economic, social and humanitarian affairs, as well as legal, administrative and budgetary questions.

The Committee did not recommend the inclusion of an item on "the exceptional situation of the Republic of China in Taiwan in the international context", which referred to the "established model of parallel representation of divided countries at the United Nations". Proposed items on the question of the Malagasy Islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India and on the question of East Timor were recommended for deferral to the Assembly's forty-ninth session, in view of progress being made in ongoing negotiations.

At the request of the Special Committee against Apartheid, the General Committee decided to change the wording of item 38 from "Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa" to "Elimination of apartheid and establishment of a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa", and to recommend its inclusion on the agenda.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with representatives of the World Bank to discuss the Bank's participation in the next phase of Somalia's rehabilitation and reconstruction, according to a United Nations

spokesman. The meeting was attended by representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Somalia, Jonathan Howe.

Admiral Howe confirmed that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) expected to assist in the formation of an interim Somali government in the next few months, the spokesman said. As a prerequisite, it was important to establish a public administration that would become involved in the implementation of social and economic development programmes.

The World Bank will hold a Donors' Conference in Paris on 22 December, before which it will conclude the framework for the programme of transition from relief and recovery to reconstruction and development in Somalia. There will also be a Donors' Conference in Addis Ababa in the first week of November.

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The mandate of the United Nations Transition Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) is scheduled to end tomorrow morning, according to a United Nations spokesman. There will be a promulgation of the Constitution at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, followed by a gathering outside to be addressed by various dignitaries including Prince Sihanouk and the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi.

The Council of Throne will then meet to elect a King, generally assumed to be Prince Sihanouk, the spokesman continued. The King will then sign an edict appointing the first and second Prime Ministers. The constitutional assembly will then be transformed into the National Assembly, bringing to an end the mandate of the United Nations in Cambodia.

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